

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (F O R P A R A G R A P H N U M B E R I N G (3 V I C E 4) (4 V I C E 5))

USIA FOR INA

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XF, SY, IS, US

SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS HITS U.S. AND ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD

M.E. AS "REVEALED" BY RABIN.

1. SUMMARY: IN HARD HITING FRONT-PAGE STORIES BOTH GOVERN-

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MENT CONTROLLED DAMASCUS DAILIES DECEMBER 4 ACCUSE US AND

ISRAEL OF ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY ARAB UNITY, TO VOID UN AND SC RESOLUTIONS OF THEIR CONTENTS, AND TO PROLONG PERIOD OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THIS PRESS ASSAULT IS REMARKS MADE BY ISRAELI PM RABIN YESTERDAY TO HAARETZ EDITOR TO EFFECT THAT "EXTREMIST" SYRIA HAD TO BE ISOLATED, THAT THE US AND ISRAEL ARE CONSIDERING FURTHER PARTIAL STEPS IN SINAI, AND THAT THERE NO URGENT NEED TO REOPEN GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AL-BAATH ARTICLE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM RABIN'S REMARKS IN ALL OF WHICH PAPER PURPORTS TO SEE DESCRIPTION US POLICY IN ME. RABIN QUOTED AS CALLING FOR ISOLATION OF "EXTREMIST REGIME" IN SYRIA AND SAYING GOI SHOULD ENCOURAGE AMERICAN INITIATIVES FOR ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT (AS MEANS TO ISOLATE SYRIA). AL-BAATH, QUOTING OBSERVERS (A TERM USUALLY REFERRING TO NEWSPAPER STAFF), ACCUSES AMERICAN DIPLOMACY OF "EXERTING WIDE PRESSURE TO HINDER ADOPTION" OF RECENT UN RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING ARAB CAUSE. ARTICLE ADDS THAT US CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO BREAK UP ARAB UNITY BY PRESENTING SCHEMES FOR PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS INSTEAD OF COMPREHENSIVE JUST SETTLEMENT. CONCLUSION IS THAT SUCCESS ON BATTLEFRONT AND IN DIPLOMATIC FORA PROVE FAILURE OF THIS (AMERICAN) POLICY AND THAT SYRIA WILL CONTINUE TO REFUSE ALL PARTIAL AND SEPARATE SETTLEMENTS. AT SAME TIME PAPER AFFIRMED SARG RESOLUTION TO REALIZE COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT FOR RETURN OF ALL OCCUPIED LAND AND RECOVERY OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS.

3. AT-THAWRA STATES SIMPLY THAT RABIN'S ATTACK AGAINST SYRIA IS EXAMPLE OF CONTINUED ISRAELI EFFORTS TO "PARALYZE" EFFORTS TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND IMPLEMENT SC RESOLUTION 338. ARTICLE DRAWS ON RABIN'S REMARKS TO EFFECT THAT EARLY OPENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE TO ARABS ADVANTAGE AND, THEREFORE, GOI, WITH US SUPPORT, FAVORS STEP-BY-STEP BASIS. AT-THAWRA REPEATS ITS THEME OF YESTERDAY THAT THERE IS DEFINITE LINK BETWEEN RENEWAL OF UNDOF MANDATE AND SC RESOLUTION TO HOLD GENEVA CONFERENCE "QUICKLY" TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION 338. ACCORDING TO SYRIAN PRESS, OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN RESPONSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS THAT RABIN'S REMARKS WERE FOR INTERNAL ISRAELI CONSUMPTION SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO COMMENT ON THEM.

4. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO EGYPTIANS, SYRIAN REACTION IS DETAILED AND STRIDENT. FROM BEGINNING SARG HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO POSSIBILITY IT WILL BE "ISOLATED" IN ONGOING SETTLEMENT PROCESS AND THUS SARG'S SHRILL REACTION TO RABIN'S STATEMENT IS NOT UNEXPECTED.

ARTICLES DO, HOWEVER, REPRESENT ONE OF SHARPEST ATTACKS
ON US WE HAVE THUS FAR SEEN IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
PRESS. READER LEFT WITH CONCLUSION THAT US ACTIVELY
OPPOSING EVERY MOVE IN ME WHICH SARG VIEWS IN ITS INTEREST.
MURPHY

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